

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 281800Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9551
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2234

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: POLITICAL POTPOURRI

1. POLITICAL RALLIES IN MADRID. THE POLITICAL LEFT HELD
WHAT WERE BILLED AS ITS FIRST LEGAL, PUBLIC RALLIES SINCE
THE CIVIL WAR THIS WEEKEND, WHEN TIerno GALVAN'S SMALL
POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY (PSP) AND THE ANARCHIST NATIONAL
CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS (CNT) HELD ENTHUSIASTIC, ORDERLY
"MITINES" IN SEPARATE MADRID BULL RINGS.
-- TIerno CONTINUED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HE CAN ALWAYS
DRAW A CROWD WHEN OVER 20,000 SHOWED UP SATURDAY TO HEAR
HIM AND OTHER PSP LEADERS EXTOL THE VIRTUES OF SOCIALISM
AND SOCIALIST UNITY. BY ALL ACCOUNTS, MANY OF THOSE
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PRESENT AT THIS "RALLY OF THE LEFT" (WHERE CHANTS OF TOMORROW
SPAIN WILL BE REPUBLICAN" WERE HEARD) WERE MEMBERS OF OTHER
LEFT AND FAR-LEFT GROUPS (EXCEPT, OF COURSE, THE PSOE).
--THE CNT, EMPHASIZING ITS REJECTION OF DICTATORSHIPS
OF ANY STRIPE AND POINTING WITH PRIDE TO ITS LONG-TIME
ADVOCACY OF THE RIGHTS OF THE WORKING CLASS, ALSO REPORTEDLY
DREW IN EXCESS OF 20,000 CHANTING ENTHUSIASTS TO ITS

SUNDAY RALLY.

2. MEANWHILE, INDEPENDENT WEEKLY MAGAZINE "OPINION" REPORTED THAT THE PSP RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM LIBYA A SUBSTANTIAL SUM OF FINANCIAL BACKING, PERHAPS AS MUCH AS 60 MILLION PESETAS (APPROXIMATELY US \$860,000). (COMMENT: WITHOUT VOUCHING FOR THIS WE HAVE THE GENERAL VIEW HERE THAT THE PSP HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN ON THE LIBYAN DOLE, AND THAT THIS GOES FAR TO EXPLAIN THE PARTY'S MARKED THIRD-WORLD, PRO-ARAB BENT.)

3. BASQUE NATIONALIST PARTY CONGRESSES. TWO HUNDRED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARTIDO NACIONALISTA VASCO (PNV), WHICH WAS LEGALIZED LAST WEEK AND NOW CLAIMS 30,000 MEMBERS IN THE FOUR BASQUE PROVINCES, CONGRESSED OVER THE WEEKEND IN PAMPLONA, NAVARRE. SIX THOUSAND REPORTEDLY ATTENDED THE CONGRESS'S CLOSING CEREMONY YESTERDAY, WHICH WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY A SPEECH BY 86-YEAR-OLD PNV MEMBER MANUEL IRUJO, A MINISTER OF JUSTICE IN THE SECOND REPUBLIC, JUST RETURNED FROM EXILE.

4. DISCUSSIONS ON ELECTIONS, ECONOMY. AT THE INVITATION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER JOSE MARIA GIL ROBLES, JR., REPRESENTATIVES OF 15 PARTIES, THE MAJOR LABOR GROUPINGS, AND VARIOUS EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS MET BEHIND CLOSED DOORS FRIDAY IN MADRID TO DISCUSS THE ELECTORAL LAW AND THE ECONOMIC SITUATION. THE PARTICIPANTS APPOINTED TWO SUB-COMMITTEES TO DEAL WITH THESE SUBJECTS IN GREATER DETAIL AND AGREED TO MEET AGAIN APRIL 2. PARTIES RANGING FROM THE REGIME PROGRESSIVE "FEDERACION SOCIAL INDEPENDIENTE" (FSI) THROUGH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, SOCIALISTS, AND COMMUNISTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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TO VARIOUS EXTREME LEFT GROUPS WERE REPRESENTED. BUT ALIANZA POPULAR, CENTRO DEMOCRATICO, AND THE PSOE-H AND OTHER CENTER-LEFT GROUPS LINKED TO IT WERE ABSENT.

5. ANOTHER POLL PUBLISHED. CATHOLIC CENTRIST YA YESTERDAY PUBLISHED THE RESULTS OF A POLL COMMISSIONED BY IT AND CONDUCTED IN THE FORM OF A SURVEY OF 800 PEOPLE IN THE CITY OF MADRID. WITH A PURPORTED LIMIT OF ERROR OF PLUS OR MINUS 3 PERCENT (AND, WE NOTED, THE CAVEAT THAT MADRID IS NOT SPAIN), THE RESULTS WERE:

--EXTREME RIGHT (FUERZA NUEVA, FE DE LAS JONS, ETC.): NO MORE THAN 5PERCENT.

--ALIANZA POPULAR: 30PERCENT

--CENTRO DEMOCRATICO AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS: 26PERCENT.

--UNION DE CENTRO-IZQUIERDA (PSOE-H, PSDE, RSE, FSD): 3 PERCENT.

--PSOE: 14PERCENT

--PCE: 4PERCENT

--PSP, CARLISTAS, MC COMBINED: 8PERCENT

-- EXTREME LEFT (ORT, PTE, ETC.): 1PERCENT, EATON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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